
SWORN STATEMENT of JAMES ARNOLD HUDGINS

Monday, July 30, 2001

Exhibit F

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1 WHEREUPON, AFTER FIRST HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN, JAMES ARNOLD
2 HUDGINS TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

3 EXAMINATION: By Mr. Cook

4 Q: I'm going to ask you a few questions. And I
5 appreciate you being here, coming up, and cooperating on
6 this matter. I have not been in it. I'm just --

7 A: Yeah, that's what --

8 Q: -- helping my associate here, Mr. Abernathy.
9 Now, give the court your full name.

10 A: My full name is James Arnold Hudgins.

11 Q: And where do you live?

12 A: Live at 2250-B -- mailing address -- Cave Springs
13 Road, Rome, Georgia. Street name, Sims Avenue. Purchased
14 the property from Robert Morrison.

15 Q: How long have you lived in Cave Springs?

16 A: It's not Cave Springs. Rome, Georgia. Floyd
17 County.

18 Q: Rome, Georgia.

19 A: Moved there 5th day of February, 1971.

20 Q: And you are 65 years old?

21 A: 65 year old.

22 Q: And are you retired?

23 A: Sorry to say I am.

24 Q: And your health is not as good as it should be?

25 A: I'm a diabetic, and I had gangrene, reason I had

1 to retire.

2 Q: Tell me, if you will, I believe that you have had
3 some contact with the district attorney's office in Rome.

4 A: The last day Tami was in office, I talked to her.
5 Prior to that, about a month, a little over a month, I
6 talked to Harold Golden.

7 Q: All right. Now, let's go back. Did you ever
8 talk to any detectives?

9 A: I talked to the city detectives. The guy's name
10 I don't know.

11 Q: Was that in reference to the murder case dealing
12 with Joey Watkins?

13 A: It sure was.

14 Q: Joseph Watkins was tried a few weeks ago for
15 murder, for murdering Isaac Dawkins. Were you familiar
16 with that trial; did you follow it?

17 A: In the paper, I did.

18 Q: Yes.

19 A: And on the radio.

20 Q: And, before the trial commenced, did you talk to
21 a detective in Rome?

22 A: I talked to several detectives in the city
23 department, including Major Mike Ragland. Mike Ragland is
24 a good friend of mine, a minister friend of mine.

25 Q: This is in Rome?

1 A: Rome, Georgia.

2 Q: And did you also talk to the district attorney in
3 Rome?

4 A: I had talked to Harold Golden prior to the trial.

5 Q: Did you talk to anyone else in the district
6 attorney's office, other than Mr. Golden, prior to the
7 trial?

8 A: No, I didn't.

9 Q: Which one did you see first, and talk to first;
10 was it Mr. Golden or the detectives?

11 A: It was detectives, probably a month after the
12 murder happened.

13 Q: And did you voluntarily go to see the detective?

14 A: I sure did.

15 Q: What did you tell him?

16 A: I told him that Mr. Joey Boyd had told me --

17 Q: That who?

18 A: Joseph Boyd had told me that he killed that guy
19 down there on the road. And I asked him why. He said,
20 "Because he was dating my wife."

21 I said, "Joey, how do you know it?"

22 "She told me he was."

23 And I said, "What did you do with the gun?"

24 "I gave it to my friend."

25 Who his friend is, I don't know. And the reason he

1 told me this, now, Mr. Cook, he had done away with some
2 guineas. He claimed he got saved. And, as a Christian, I
3 can forgive you if you've done something to me. And I went
4 up there to tell him I had forgave him for doing away with
5 my guineas. And he said, "I didn't do away with them, I
6 killed them."

7 Q: And where was he when he told you that he was the
8 one that had killed Isaac Dawkins?

9 A: He was standing in the front of his garage with
10 his little baby girl in his arms.

11 Q: And you didn't ask him anything about that; he
12 volunteered this.

13 A: No, sir; I sure didn't. He volunteered it.

14 Q: And he said he did it why?

15 A: Because the boy was dating his wife, Crystal.

16 Q: Was he drinking, or was he sober?

17 A: Far as I can tell, he was sober.

18 Q: How old a man would you say that he was?

19 A: I'm going to say he's in his --

20 Q: The boy.

21 A: I'm going to say he's in his thirties. I don't
22 know exactly how old Joey is.

23 Q: Had you known him very long?

24 A: Probably, I'm going to say six or seven years,
25 since he had moved there. I don't know how long he had

1 been living there at the time.

2 Q: When you told the detective that, what did he
3 say? What did the detective say?

4 A: He just took everything down, and said he'd check
5 it out.

6 Q: Did he make notes?

7 A: He made notes. He sure did.

8 Q: Now, do you know who that was -- the detective?

9 A: No. I'd know him if I seen him. I don't know
10 his name.

11 Q: Could it have been Moser?

12 A: It could have been. Only thing I can tell you,
13 the man was going through a divorce.

14 Q: He was going through a divorce at the time?

15 A: Yes. Just like Boyd was.

16 Q: But when you were telling him what Boyd had told
17 you, he made notes and wrote it down?

18 A: Yes, sir. He did. Major Mike Ragland told me
19 the man was a good Christian man. Other than that, that's
20 all I know.

21 Q: Then, you later, after that, went to see Mr. Hal
22 Golden.

23 A: I sure did.

24 Q: In the district attorney's office.

25 A: I went and talked to Harold Golden about running

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1 for district attorney in the Tallapoosa Circuit against the
2 present DA, should they do away with Paulding County.

3 Q: And, at that time, did you tell him about what
4 Boyd had told you?

5 A: I sure did.

6 Q: What did he say?

7 A: He said, "Well, I'll talk to people about it,
8 talk to some people about it." Other than that, that was
9 about it. He didn't take no notes.

10 Q: How long did that conversation last?

11 A: We probably talked probably about 15 or 20
12 minutes, because I've been knowing Harold and knowing of
13 his family all of my life.

14 Q: Have you talked to anyone else in the district
15 attorney's office, other than that?

16 A: Other than the last day that Tami was in office.
17 I talked to her and Steve Cox.

18 Q: Talked to both of them?

19 A: At the same time. I talked to her, and she
20 hollered, "I believe you, I believe you, I believe you.
21 Just hope we ain't got the wrong Joey in prison."

22 Q: And both of them were together?

23 A: Both of them was together. She made sure that
24 Steve was in there with her, because they was having a
25 little party up there when I went to talk to her.

1 Q: Did you relate to her specifically what Boyd had
2 told you?

3 A: I sure did. And, then, she said, "I believe you,
4 I believe you, I believe you."

5 Q: Has anyone related to you whether or not they
6 made any effort to ever contact Boyd and interview him?

7 A: Only thing I can tell you, Mr. Boyd came to my
8 house not too long after that and jumped onto me, and said
9 he had friends in the detectives' office up there, had told
10 him that I had been up there, and he could get by with
11 anything. And, shortly after that, he killed a bunch of
12 chickens that belonged to me, and told a neighbor that I
13 wasn't able to take care of them. And, since then, he's
14 killed a rooster and stomped and broke its leg -- or
15 stomped it and broke its leg. I had an autopsy done on it,
16 and, of course, they couldn't tell what happened, but it
17 broke its leg real bad. Done numerous other things to me.
18 He's killed neighbors' dogs up there.

19 Q: How close do you live to Boyd?

20 A: Oh, I can throw a rock. Probably far as from
21 here to the front of your office up here.

22 Q: Does he still live in the same location?

23 A: He still lives in the same location.

24 Q: And that's next to you?

25 A: Yes, sir.

1 Q: What is his address; do you know?

2 A: 2250D -- mailing address -- Cave Springs Road,
3 SW, Rome, Georgia. Street name, Sims Avenue, last house on
4 the right.

5 Q: And that's where?

6 A: Last house on the right on Sims Avenue.

7 Q: Is he living with his wife now, or are they --

8 A: He's living with a woman. I don't know whether
9 she's his wife or not.

10 Q: All right.

11 A: He's living with a girl. Who she is, I don't
12 know.

13 Q: Has he ever denied telling you that?

14 A: No, he hasn't.

15 Q: Did you believe him?

16 A: Yes. When you tell me you're a Christian and you
17 tell me something, Bobby Lee, I believe you.

18 Q: And you say when you told Ms. Colston and Steve
19 Cox this that she said what?

20 A: "I believe you, I believe you, I believe you. I
21 just hope we ain't got the wrong Joseph in prison."

22 Q: What did Mr. Cox say?

23 A: Mr. Cox didn't talk about it. Me and Mr. Cox
24 talked about maybe him getting the district attorney's
25 office after we left, and I told him that Buddy Childers

1 was against him. Other than that, the conversation ended.

2 Q: Probably didn't want to hear that. I say, he
3 probably didn't want to hear that.

4 A: Well, he probably didn't. Steve and my brother,
5 understand, are good friends. I hope you and Steve are
6 good friends.

7 Q: Yeah. Well, I get along fine with Steve. I
8 consider Steve to be a friend. I have not ever had any
9 difficulty with Steve at all.

10 A: I know a lot of Coxes, but Steve --

11 Q: And your brother is Grover Hudgins.

12 A: My brother is Major Grover Hudgins.

13 Q: Who is the assistant district attorney in Lookout
14 Mountain Circuit.

15 A: Right. My other brothers are Rev. Dan Hudgins,
16 lives in Stevenson, Alabama.

17 Q: All right. Well, I appreciate you.

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19 EXAMINATION: By Mr. Abernathy

20 Q: Mr. Hudgins, let me ask you something. When you
21 talked to Steve and Tami after the trial and gave them this
22 information, did you tell them at that time that you had
23 talked to Hal Golden or anyone in their office?

24 A: I told them I had talked to Hal Golden. And the
25 reason I didn't go up there during the trial, I was getting

1 over double pneumonia.

2 Q: But you were following it?

3 A: I was following it in the paper and on the radio.

4 Q: But at the time after the trial, when you first
5 talked to Tami and Steve Cox, you told them at that time
6 that you had been up there before trial and talked to Hal
7 Golden?

8 A: I sure did.

9 Q: What did they say?

10 A: They didn't say nothing.

11 Q: And this lady that Mr. Boyd lives with now, is
12 that the same wife he was living with when he told you
13 this?

14 A: That's negative.

15 Q: What?

16 A: That's negative. That's no.

17 Q: It's a different lady?

18 A: The lady that he lived with when that happened,
19 she works for this outfit right here in Cartersville,
20 Georgia.

21 MR. COOK: Family Savings Credit Union.

22 A: (The Witness) Family Savings Credit Union.

23 Q: (Mr. Abernathy) And her name is Crystal?

24 A: Her name is Crystal or Christin. And she lives,
25 understand, at down in Alabama.

1 Q: And Crystal is the person that Joey Boyd told you
2 his wife, Crystal, was going with Isaac Dawkins, the boy
3 that got killed?

4 A: That's right. That's right.

5 Q: I don't have anything else.

6 MR. COOK: Thank you, Mr. Hudgins.

7 (CONCLUSION OF SWORN STATEMENT)

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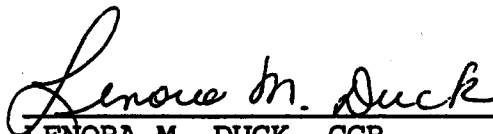
C E R T I F I C A T E

COUNTY OF FLOYD)

STATE OF GEORGIA)

I, Lenora M. Duck, the undersigned, a duly commissioned and qualified Notary Public and Certified Court Reporter within and for the State of Georgia, do hereby certify that before the giving of his aforesaid examination under oath, the witness was by me first duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the foregoing is the examination under oath given at said time and place by said witness; that I am neither a relative of nor attorney for any of the parties to this case, and have no interest in the results of the case; and that said examination under oath was transcribed under my directions and supervision.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Rome, Georgia, this 2nd day of August, 2001.



LENORA M. DUCK, CCR
Notary Public
B-340

My commission expires: March 23, 2004